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CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the American Naturalist:

SIR:—In that very interesting and not unimportant book *Memoirs of Odd Adventures, Strange Deliverances, etc., in the Captivity of John Giles, Esq. . . . written by himself*, describing his captivity among the Indians of New Brunswick in 1689–98, occur many quaint but truthful remarks upon the habits of common animals. But among the others occurs this:

Of the Tortoise. It is needless to describe the fresh-water tortoise, whose form is so well known in all parts: but their manner of propagating their species is not so universally known. I have observed that sort of tortoise whose shell is about fourteen or sixteen inches wide. In their coition they may be heard half a mile, making a noise like a woman washing her linen with a batting staff. They lay their eggs in the sand, etc.

I have asked several students of these animals for information about the noise here mentioned, but none of them seem to know it. Giles (or more properly Gyles) is usually so accurate in his observations that I can hardly believe he was wholly mistaken in this case. Can any of the readers of the *American Naturalist* throw any light upon the subject?

The immediate reason for my interest in the matter is an inquiry from my friend Mr. Victor H. Paltsits, of the Lenox Library, New York City, who is editing and exhaustively annotating a new edition of Gyles's Memoirs, soon to be published by Dodd, Mead and Co. of New York.

W. F. GANONG.

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